

III. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended): Moulding element for motor vehicle bodies comprising:

- a main section bar (2) of elongated conformation;
- attachment means (6) operatively associated to the main section bar (2) and destined to engage a corresponding securing area (5a) of a body (5) of a motor vehicle, said attachment means (6) including:

a continuous ~~support~~ support element (7) engaged to the main section bar (2), said support element (7) presenting a pre-set number of attachment seats (11) located at a pre-set mutual distance for engagement with ~~the~~ corresponding projections carried by said securing area (5a);

a longitudinal seat (8) on the main section bar (2) for receiving said continuous support element (7), the longitudinal seat (8) presenting in cross-section a longitudinal opening (10) to allow access to said attachment seat (11) and undercuts (12) acting in opposition on ~~the~~ corresponding bearing portion (13) of the continuous support element (7), wherein said undercuts (12) of the main section bar (2) are capable of preventing extraction of the attachment means (6) through the longitudinal opening, said main section bar (2) and said continuous support element (7) not being made in resilient material; and a flexible seal lip (4) extending longitudinally along substantially the entire ~~development~~ length of the moulding element itself and presenting a base portion (4a) engaged ~~on~~ to the main section bar.

2. (Currently amended): Moulding element according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein:

said longitudinal seat (8) ~~is substantially corresponding~~ corresponds to said continuous support element (7), the continuous support element (7) being inserted in the corresponding longitudinal seat (8); ~~and in that~~ a first operative condition of the moulding element (1), where the continuous support element (7) is separated from the body (5), the continuous support element (7) is exclusively and directly engaged only with the main section bar (2)

and, in the second operative condition of the moulding element (1) where the moulding element (1) is fully assembled and mounted on the body (5), the continuous support element is directly and exclusively attached to the main section bar (2) and to the projections (9) carried by said securing area (5a); ~~and in that~~ no other attachment means ~~are being~~ associated to the continuous support element (7) for directly attaching the ~~same~~ support element to the body (5).

3. (Cancelled):

4. (Currently amended): Moulding element according to claim 2, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said longitudinal seat (8) presents, in correspondence with at least one end, ~~and an~~ insertion opening (8a) to receive said continuous support element.

5. (Previously amended): Moulding element according to claim 1, comprising axial locking means (14) operatively interposed between said section bar (2) and said attachment means (6).

6. (Previously amended): Moulding element according to claim 1, comprising a finish coating (3) associated to an outer side (2a) of the main section bar, said finish coating (3) being associated to the main section bar by means of injection moulding.

7. (Cancelled).

8. (Currently amended): Moulding element according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said main section bar comprises a stiffening metal core.

9. (Currently amended): Moulding element according to claim 4, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the main section bar (2) presents a substantially "C" shaped cross section defining within its own interior the longitudinal seat (8), said seat comprising two undercuts (12), set

to act in opposition on corresponding bearing portions (13) of the continuous support element (7) to prevent the extraction of the attachment means (6) through the longitudinal opening.

10. (Currently amended): Moulding element according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the continuous support element (7) presents a pre-set number of attachment seats (11) delimited at least in one side of the continuous element (7) destined to face the body, by a peripheral lip defining closed line.

11. (Currently amended): Moulding element according to claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the peripheral lip delimiting the attachment seat (11) defines at least an area (11a) for the insertion of fastening projections (9) and at least an area (11b) for blocking the fastening projections (9) in an axial direction of motion of the moulding element away from the body, the fastening projections (9) of the body comprising a head and a connecting stem between the head and the body, said head presenting a radial dimension greater than the radial dimension of the stem.

12. (Currently amended): Moulding element according to claim 11 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein in correspondence with the blocking area (11b), the peripheral lip presents a projecting portion (15) defining at least an undercut (16) set to act in opposition on a corresponding arrest portion of the head of the projection (9) to prevent separating motions between the moulding element (1) and the body (5) of the vehicle.

13. (Currently amended): Moulding element according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the continuous support element (7) presents a pre-set number of attachment seats (11) each delimited at least in one side of the continuous element (7) destined to face the body, by a peripheral lip defining an open line connected to the subsequent and to the preceding seat.

14. (Currently amended): Moulding element according to claim 13, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the peripheral lip delimiting the attachment seat (11) defines at least an area (11a) for the insertion of ~~the~~ fastening projections (9) and at least an area (11b) for blocking the fastening projections (9) in an axial direction of motion of the moulding element away from the body, the fastening projections (9) of the body comprising a head, and a stem connecting the head and the body, said head presenting a radial dimension greater than the radial dimension of the stem.

15. (Currently amended): Moulding element according to claim 14 ~~characterised in that~~ wherein, in correspondence with the blocking area (11b), the peripheral lip presents a projecting portion (15) defining at least an undercut (16) set to act in opposition on a corresponding arresting portion of the head of the projection (9) to prevent separating motions between the moulding element (1) and the body (5) of the vehicle.